

Child Welfare League of America

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

Bulletin

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"The key to the world of the future and to the wise fraternity of all races lies in the liberation of the child from the bondage of others' error and sin; from disease and debility, from desertion and want, from ignorance and passion above all, that are visited on the helpless to the third and fourth generation. The heart of a child is friendly to all: like the baby of Della Robbia, its limbs are bound, but its arms go out to its fellows. Its single claim is to be allowed to love; its one revenge to die if, for an hour, we neglect it."—ROMAINE ROLLAND.

THE BULLETIN SEEKS DIAGNOSIS

The BULLETIN having lived through early infancy and survived the runabout stage, has reached the point where it can say—"Now We Are Six." Thus this seems to be a good time to take stock.

No one publication ever pleases all the people all the time. But in order to be sure that the BULLETIN achieves a fair batting average, member agencies ought to help the office staff to answer such questions as these:

1. Are selected articles reprinted from other publications of interest to you or in most cases have you previously read such articles?

2. Do you think that there is too little in the BULLETIN about the activities of member agencies?

3. Does the BULLETIN help you to get a perspective of the developments in the general field of Child Welfare?

4. Are you interested in knowing about the various activities of the League staff and the new projects undertaken from time to time?

5. Should the BULLETIN run at least two or three articles per year on publicity and financing prepared by authorities in this field? In response to a questionnaire sent to private member agencies asking whether they receive support from community chests or raise their budgets individually, 88 agencies have answered up to date. Of this number, 66 are affiliated with community chests or federations and 22 raise their own funds.

6. Should the BULLETIN be sent to contributors to the League? If it is sent to contributors, would it be desirable to continue the type of subject matter which has been used in the past or should some space be devoted to the definite task of acquainting intelligent lay persons with the fundamentals of children's work?

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INSTITUTION NEWS

FIRES IN INSTITUTIONS

Fifteen Babies Carried Out of a Burning Hospital.

Fifty-three Children Burned to Death in an Orphanage.

Forty Boys Injured in a Fire that Destroyed a Boarding School.

Three Boys Burned to Death in an Orphanage.

Aged Women Carried from a Burning Asylum.

Forty-two Patients Carried from a Burning Hospital.

Seventy-six Patients Carried from the Smoke-Congested Wards of a Hospital.

The foregoing are in substance some of the newspaper headings that appeared during November and December of the year just ended.

So the story goes, month by month and year by year. Institutions, like club houses, are a great fire hazard. In club-house fires lives are seldom lost. By institution fires, unfortunately, many inmates lose their lives.

What, if anything is the remedy? Obviously if all non-fireproof buildings of institutions were replaced by fireproof structures, few fires would start and no lives would be lost. These no doubt would be replaced more rapidly than they are if the trustees realized the hazard to life. Where it is impracticable to replace the non-fireproof structures, much can be done to lessen the hazard. Some of the measures are as follows:

1. Replace all old type electric wires by modern cable and safety outlets.

2. Construct fireproof enclosed stairways with automatic door closers.

3. Fireproof the basement ceiling.

4. Install in the basement, attic, storage rooms and storage closets, automatic fire sprinklers or fire detecting and signalling cables.

5. Keep the basement and attic free from rubbish or inflammable material.

6. If the building is large enough to warrant it, construct fire walls transversely through the building from the basement to and extending above the roof, with automatically closing fire doors at all openings.

7. Have no metal smoke flues pass through partitions,

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

WALTER BROWN—A PSYCHIATRIC CASE STUDY IN AN INSTITUTION

PART I

ELEANOR CLIFTON, former Resident Psychologist,
Berkshire Industrial Farm, Canaan, N. Y.

Walter Brown's admission to the Berkshire Industrial Farm was requested by his father in a letter voicing his profound discouragement over the boy's behavior and his own inability to cope with it. "I seem to have failed utterly," he wrote, "in my efforts to rear this boy to be a real man and a good citizen, and I would send him to you in the hope that you will succeed where I have failed." Investigation disclosed a rather imposing catalogue of delinquencies, including lying, stealing and forging checks. The last offense had resulted in his expulsion from a military school and had led his well-nigh desperate father to place him in a State Hospital for observation of his mental condition. Upon his discharge as "not psychotic," Berkshire Industrial Farm appeared the last resort.

In due time Walter appeared, a smiling, clear-eyed, healthy fourteen-year-old, mature in appearance and friendly in manner. He chatted most disarmingly to the members of the Clinic staff, who welcomed him and except for an immediate announcement of his determination to be an "auto-racer" gave no indication of the erratic personality make-up deplored by his father. He was escorted to the Farm by an anxious little woman who was manifestly ill at ease and loath to give any information beyond the fact that she was Mr. Brown's housekeeper and had never been able to get along with the boy or to control him.

The psychiatric staff immediately began their study of Walter preparatory to treatment. The physical examination showed him to be well nourished and two years accelerated physically. He was essentially negative from the physical and neurological standpoints except for some degree of vasomotor relaxation under emotional disturbance. The psychologist reported that he was a boy of better than average intelligence, with even mental development and thoroughly normal reasoning ability. He was somewhat impulsive, but analyzed problems capably and profited well by experience. He showed rather superior power of apperception—or the ability to grasp a situation with its various relationships and implications. He was normally planful and had unusually good mechanical aptitude. In school proficiency tests he was found up to his grade—the eighth—with no special disabilities.

The psychiatric social worker began her investigation by securing a detailed report from the State Hospital. This furnished considerable interesting material. The boy's father, a consulting engineer, had referred him to the hospital for advice and treatment. His

wife had been committed to the same hospital seven years before after an attempt at suicide and had been diagnosed as a case of dementia præcox with an unfavorable prognosis. Walter had been placed with his paternal grandmother for two years after the mother's commitment, but had proved troublesome and had been sent to a private school for a few months. His father then established a home with a housekeeper in charge in a small town. Walter progressed well in the public school but caused continual trouble with his lying and stealing. On the advice of a psychiatrist he was sent at the age of thirteen to the military school from which he was expelled after five months for forging checks. He was said to be unconcerned about his delinquencies and to be entirely unaffectionate and mercenary in his relationship with his father. He was cowardly in a group and preferred to play with younger boys.

The psychiatrist at the hospital found him infantile and tearful. He talked about his mother and his ambition to take her away from the hospital. The next moment he said that he would like to work and earn money to help his father. Both ideas seemed to occur to him on the spur of the moment without serious thought. He appeared to have "an undeveloped attitude toward the property of others" and took what he wanted without learning from sad experiences. He denied all sex experiences. He made an impression of a "psychopathic personality with lack of development of emotional control."

A long psychiatric conference with Walter followed the receipt of the hospital report. He talked freely and willingly, recalling his early childhood with his mother when, he said, everything was "dandy." He dated his conduct difficulties back to the time when the housekeeper appeared on the scene. He had felt from the start that she disliked him and he resented her presence in the home. He admitted disobeying her and stealing food and other little things, and he maintained that he had lied because truthfulness never saved him from punishment. He felt that his father's feeling toward him changed when the housekeeper came and, when a scandal-loving neighbor suggested that he watch and "see how they slept," he used to lie awake for hours and listen. He cried bitterly when telling this and seemed certain that his father had been weaned away from him and had disloyally put his mother away. He tearfully declared that he would never return home to live and added, "Maybe some day if my father has to go to the poorhouse he'll want *me* to help him."

As soon as possible the psychiatric social worker made a visit to the Brown home in another part of the state. Mr. Brown repeated the story that he had told the hospital psychiatrist, but on this occasion went into the most frank and complete details of his un-

happy life before his wife's commitment. He made no attempt to deny or defend his relationship with the housekeeper, but did speak of the impossibility of securing a divorce and of his feeling that under the circumstances he was not doing wrong. He realized, however, the pain that the situation had caused Walter and seemed to understand why he had retaliated by gossiping around the neighborhood. He could even see the relation that the whole matter bore to the boy's delinquency. He expressed deep appreciation of the psychiatric social worker's desire to help Walter to a better adjustment and at the same time view sympathetically his own needs and attempts at satisfying them.

During this investigation the Clinic staff had been getting better acquainted with the boy, seeing him through an occasional emotional crisis, encouraging friendly contacts and establishing an excellent foundation for the treatment indicated by the preliminary findings.

(To be concluded in March Issue)

INSTITUTION NEWS

(Continued from page 1)

or when nearer than three feet to a wood partition, fireproof such partition.

8. Have no gas-jets near curtains.

9. If oil furnace is used, see that it is one approved by the fire underwriters and is inspected at frequent periods.

10. In large institutions provide night watchman service.

If the foregoing precautions were taken, fewer fires would occur. The only way, however, to insure no loss of life from fire is to use fireproof structure if over one story in height. One-story structures may be non-fireproof if the floor slab is nonburning material. Such a structure can and may burn, but no lives need be lost, owing to easy and quick access to the ground.—

HENRY C. WRIGHT.

CHILD WELFARE INSTITUTE

The Child Welfare League of America will hold its second institute for executives and experienced workers for three weeks beginning June 4, 1928, in New York City. Executive officers or supervisors of case work are eligible. A few senior visitors may be admitted. The number is limited. This institute is intended first of all for those connected with member agencies but if there is room others may be admitted. Any persons seeking a place in the institute will please communicate by letter with the Executive Director.

(Continued from page 1, column 1)

7. Is the BULLETIN of enough interest or can it be made of enough interest to members to justify continuing its publication, or

8. Would it be more valuable to use the money now spent on the BULLETIN to publish detailed reports from time to time on League projects for the use of member agencies only?

We believe these questions merit the attention of the League membership and should receive consideration at the time of the annual meeting at Memphis. In other words, now that "we are six" and some months over, should we not try to find out whether, like Christopher Robin, we are "as clever as ever" or whether for the most part we are just shooting in the dark?

DON'TS FOR GROWN-UPS

Visitors, foster parents, cottage mothers and own parents can all profit from reading the "Code for Parents," by Dr. Ernest R. Groves, which appeared in *Harper's Magazine*:

"Don't show off your child.

"It is not the duty of the child to feed a parent's vanity, but the parent's task to forget self-pride in dealing with his child.

"Don't hurry your child.

"Adulthood is not a station toward which the child should be rushed, but a product of growth, and the growing process is the important thing. You can't mold children: they have to grow.

"Don't use your child as a means of ridding yourself of emotions that you dare not express to equals.

"Don't expect commands to function in place of fellowship.

"Children can be led but not driven in these days.

"Don't lie to your child or permit any one else to do so.

"Your real opinions and beliefs may be far enough from the child's later judgment, but your deceit will be hopelessly distant. Sentiment easily leads to false statements.

"Don't use fear as a whip.

"Fear can only succeed by making slaves, and slaves, even when obedient, are poor substitutes for full human beings.

"Don't stress the weaknesses of your child.

"He may take seriously what you point out to him and develop feelings of inferiority, or he may glue his attention on your own weaknesses and lose respect for you as a harping hypocrite.

"Don't tell your child that he cannot reason.

"He can and will if you have the wit to help him."

Children's agencies in the southwest will be interested in the leaflets on child-care for Spanish-speaking mothers issued by the Division of Child Hygiene of the Arizona State Department of Health. There are leaflets on prenatal and infant care, birth registration, the needs of growing children, feeding of infants, venereal disease, and tuberculosis.

THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

President—ALBERT H. STONEMAN, Detroit
Vice-President—A. T. JAMISON, Greenwood, S. C.
Secretary—MISS GEORGIA G. RALPH, New York
Treasurer—ALFRED F. WHITMAN, 41 Mt. Vernon St., Boston, Mass.
Executive Director—C. C. CARSTENS, New York

THE POSITION OF THE COTTAGE MOTHER

DR. A. T. JAMISON

Superintendent, Connie Maxwell Orphanage, Greenwood,
 South Carolina

The place assigned the cottage mother and the duties expected of her seem to differ in institutions of varying types. My inference from the letter requesting me to contribute an article upon the subject leads me to feel that I am expected to give my own experience in connection with the institution with which I happen to be connected, rather than attempting to discuss the question in general. Going back quite a number of years, we find that this was a fairly good type of the average institution. It can hardly be claimed that progressive ideas were regnant, but living conditions as we now see were below standards. It can scarcely be said that any features of the work were above the average. The matron in charge of a cottage was expected to be a good, kindly soul, who would look after meals for the children and see that they were not too rude or boisterous in conduct. She was expected to be a good cook. She was expected to have the ability to make the children perform their duties in housework. She was expected to keep the children from fighting, and to instruct them in the fundamentals of ethics, such as the sinfulness of telling stories and taking things. She was a caretaker of the children, and it was thought that almost any good ordinary woman would do for the job.

Gradually there began developing a conviction that the cottage mother, then called the matron, should be of a higher type. Attendance at the National Conference from year to year brought a rising view of standards. Then there was a sudden awakening upon a visit to a certain fine institution. It was seen that the typical institution was far below what could possibly be secured by intelligent methods. For one thing, in this institution that was visited there was observed a spirit quite different from that usually seen. The children all appeared to be happy. They had a comfortable, easy attitude. There was no sign that they were repressed by hard and antiquated methods. There was a friendly relationship between members of the staff and the children. There was not apparent any sign of harshness or coercion in management. Every child appeared to be growing up in a normal, happy way. The experience

started a great many thoughts, and finally developed some convictions.

At a later period request was made of the Board of Trustees that arrangement be effected to secure cottage mothers of better training and ability. It was argued that the whole type and spirit of the institution would be improved if more of the cultural should be brought into the lives of the children. Attention was called to the closeness of the house mother to the children, and to the fact that she was in position to impress them more deeply than any other officer in the establishment. It was pointed out how she took mother's place in a real way in the life of every child, that it was she who better than any one else could help with correct English, instruct in table manners, explain the proper attitude of each sex toward the other, and in short put into the life and character of the child just what the real mother in the normal home would do. It was argued that the lady in charge of the cottage was not there just to secure good conduct from the children, but to develop character and build them up in all the fine qualities that should make them strong. It was even insisted that she really occupied the most important position in the establishment, not excepting that of the Executive Head. The Trustees were reasonable men, and listened very thoughtfully. The first remark made upon the subject by one of the trustees was to the effect that such women would cost more money than hitherto had been paid. After full discussion, it was decided that a finer type should be sought. Authority was given to discover and employ as fine women for the cottages as were already engaged in the school. It was agreed that every effort should be made to lift the children in tone and in refinement. It was agreed that in every case a child should go back to his community with evident marks of cultural training upon him. It was an important decision in coming to the position that effort should be made to elevate and educate the child in a finer way than that which had previously prevailed.

Then attempt was made to secure a set of fine women to take charge of the cottages. A number of school teachers were persuaded to leave their grades and take the job of mothering a set of 25 children. The same salary was given them as in the school. They were given the same dignity of position that they had previously had as teachers. Then we went afield to find more good women. Some of them had not previously had experience in institutional work. How were they to be trained? It was not feasible to secure for them even a short course in a school of social work. There was at that time not an abundance of literature upon the subject. So the plan decided upon was to allow a prospective cottage mother to come and serve as supply for a period of a few months. Going from house to house she

would get the run of things, and see what it was all about. She would in the course of weeks or months observe different methods in different cottages and could study the differences and think out things for herself. By and by, when she should be invited to take charge of a cottage as its mother, she would not by any means feel new or strange in the work.

The results have been worth more than could be expressed in words. There is a better fraternity among members of the staff, since all are on the same basis as to dignity and salary. The children have high respect for a mother who can correct them in English, discuss with them in an intelligent way the happenings of the day. Intelligent table talk has given the children ability to take part in conversation. Their attitude indicates that they feel as if they had a different standing socially. It has, of course, made the children happy to realize that increased refinement has come into their lives.

At the institution of which this experience is recorded there are 15 cottage mothers regularly employed, and in addition three are on full-time duty as supplies to take the place of any who are off duty. Eight ladies out of the 15 were formerly teachers. Of course it would not do to select just any teacher. One must be had who is domestic in turn, and who has the mother spirit. One who knew this same institution in other days would hardly think it could be compared with what is found there today. The standards have in nearly every respect been raised. It has cost some money to do it, but why should we spend any money at all in such a work unless we spend it in such a way as to do the most good for the children?

A CHILD WELFARE CODE COMMISSION FOR ILLINOIS

The Illinois Conference on Public Welfare adopted a resolution at its 1927 meeting urging that the "incoming president be instructed to appoint a committee whose duty it shall be to consider and develop ways and means toward the most comprehensive, complete and coordinated system of child welfare possible within the State of Illinois, including the legislative and administrative phases of such service."

GEORGIA WITHIN BIRTH AND DEATH REGISTRATION AREA

With the admission of Georgia to the birth and death registration area—the latest state to be so admitted—the number of states outside the death registration area has been reduced to five and the number outside the birth registration area to seven, according to a statement made public January 26 by the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor in which child welfare topics are discussed.

MOTHERS' AID FURNISHED BY GEORGIA INSTITUTIONS

Fortunately there are still pioneers—people who have vision plus the spirit of adventure and the will to push on into new and untried paths. In three of its institutions for children Georgia has such a group of pioneers. Since 1920 one institution, and for the last several years two other institutions, have been administering Mothers' Aid.

Unfortunately Georgia is one of the few remaining states which has not passed a Mothers' Aid law. During the recent 1927 legislature such a bill passed the Senate, but because of the calendar date never reached the house.

Meantime these three institutions, The Tuttle-Newton Home, Augusta, The Hebrew Orphans' Home, Atlanta, and the Masonic Orphans' Home, Macon, are blazing a bright trail.

Mr. H. H. Alexander, President of the Tuttle-Newton Home Board, has been its guiding spirit since the days of 1920 when Mothers' Aid was first administered without supervision and follow-up service—to five years later, when it was arranged for the field worker of the Georgia Children's Home Society to supervise the families receiving Mothers' Aid—down to the present time, when the social worker is going into the home of some seventeen mothers who receive aid from the Home. Her service—guiding, helping, advising—extends also to fathers and relatives and at this time seventy-one children are under care in their own homes. Mothers' Aid has made possible not only a more constructive service on the part of the Tuttle-Newton Home but a wider service. More children are being cared for and at smaller cost, the Home having found that maintenance of the child with his mother totals just one-third the cost of institutional care.

In October, 1925, the Hebrew Orphans' Home decided to place the Mothers' Aid work, which it had been carrying for a number of years, under the supervision of a social worker. Two years have brought most gratifying results. To-day the management of this Home speaks with unqualified approval and pride of the accomplishments of this worker and the far-reaching benefits of Mothers' Aid administered under her supervision. Since January, 1926, applications for thirty-three children have been received by this Home, which serves seven southern states, but it has been necessary to accept only one child for care in the Home. Two families (representing eight children) have been granted a subsidy, that is, a monthly pension granted to the mother in her own home, but for each of the remaining twenty-five children some other arrangement was possible and best. And this by a worker who not only keeps in close touch with the families receiving

Mothers' Aid but who is the friendly supervisor of the older boys and girls as they leave the Home to become self-supporting. She helps them find the work for which they are fitted and a satisfactory boarding home which remains under her supervision as long as is necessary. Another phase of the work is mentioned in a recent report from the Home: "The earning capacity of every mother is developed to the best possible advantage. One-half of the number of our subsidized mothers became self-supporting within the last two years. Some are partially self-sustaining." Commenting on the economic saving of Mothers' Aid, the superintendent says: "The children in our Home cost us about \$35 a month per capita. The children subsidized in their homes cost us about \$25 a month per capita . . . From my own experience I may safely say that our social worker saved more than her salary in the first year of her service."

The third Georgia institution to adopt a plan for Mothers' Aid was the Masonic Orphans' Home, when the conservatively progressive Grand Lodge authorized the Board of Trustees to appropriate money for the support of children with their mothers. As a result, twelve families (thirty-four children) were cared for in their own homes during 1927. This work is under the supervision of the field worker of the Home, who reports the average cost per child to be about \$5.80 per month as compared to \$23.79 per month in the institution. The increase in per capita dues which the Georgia Masons recently voted will undoubtedly mean an extension of their Mothers' Aid program, and by the same token, a greater number of needy mothers and children reached.

With these three institutions already administering Mothers' Aid; with several others making small beginnings; and even larger numbers manifesting an increasing interest, Georgia is marching steadily toward a general adoption of Mothers' Aid. Leaders in the state are looking forward with confidence to a not too distant day when the State itself will follow its pioneering private institutions by joining the ranks of the States having a Mothers' Aid Law.—Mrs. Edgar A. Davidson, State Department of Welfare, Atlanta, Georgia.

CAUTION

The McAllister Sisters, aged 16 and 11, recently appeared in a theatre in Buffalo, New York. The younger one appeared in a singing and dancing act in violation of the State Law which prohibits the public exhibition of children under 16 years of age. Our members can get additional information of value from the Juvenile Protective Dept. of the Children's Aid Society, 52 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York, if these children appear in their cities.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

EVERY CHILD'S DIETARY FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN. By Pearl S. Shackelford, New York. National Federation of Day Nurseries, 105 East 22d Street, New York, N. Y. Price: 25 cents each.

"Every Child's Dietary for Mothers and Children" fills a gap long felt by those feeding young children. The author's training under Dr. Mary Schwartz Rose and the approval of the bulletin by such authorities on nutrition as Doctors Rose, Hendee Smith, Hess, Shaw and Kerley, inspire confidence that the subject matter is scientifically correct and that it embodies the newer discoveries in nutrition.

The material is well organized, is simple and non-technical in form, and deals with a practical problem in a very practical way. The arrangement is both unique and logical. It progresses in much the same order as does the preparation of the meal. First, menu planning, the hours of service, and the amounts to be served are briefly discussed, then follow the menus arranged in groups—menus for children from 2-3 years old, and menus for those from 4-7 years.

The menus offer sufficient variety, provide for all bodily requirements, and indicate foods high in calcium, phosphorus, iron and vitamins—all so essential for growth and development. There need be no fear that the child whose assimilation functions normally and who eats a full portion of the foods provided for each meal will not be adequately nourished.

The recipes giving the amount of each ingredient required to make either an individual serving, or twenty-four servings, and the suggestions for cooking make it possible under all conditions to produce an appetizing, well-prepared dish.

The fundamental topics—menus, recipes, portions to be served, rest, and others—are tied together with terse, direct statements embodying rules which must be observed if the child is to use his food to the best advantage. These statements are among the most instructive features of the bulletin. Through their very terseness they command. "Serve the meal at regular hours." What mother after this would delay the child's meal until the adults came home? "Avoid highly flavored and spiced foods . . . Raw vegetables should be introduced in the diet at this age." (2-3 years old.) The mother knows that this applies to her very own child as well as to her neighbor's. "No tea, coffee, beer, wine," and this precludes even the teaspoon of coffee or tea added to a cup of milk, "just to flavor the milk a bit," as many mothers say. The author gives specific directions as to how to carry over a well-rounded nutrition program, and for the sake of the child the mother cannot afford to slip cogs along this highway to health.

"Flying in its airship of artistic design, 'Every Child's Dietary' is bringing to every mother a message of better health for every child."—KATHARINE A. PRITCHETT, Consultant, Administrative Nutrition, State Department of Welfare, Harrisburg, Penna.

A GUIDE TO GOOD HOMES

The Home Bureau of the Hebrew Sheltering Guardian Society of New York recently held a foster mothers' meeting at which foster mothers themselves set the following very interesting standards for new foster mothers and their homes:

1. You must know that the child will be treated as their own.
2. Must encourage them to see their own people, must make their relatives welcome.
3. Must love them, but not so much that they will be unhappy when they go home.
4. Be interested in the things the child is interested in.
5. Be successful in raising own children.
6. Must be prepared to look after the child's health.
7. The home must be one where there is plenty of food, plenty of rest, and play.
8. The home should be happy.
9. The whole family must want the child.

LEAGUE PUBLICATIONS

The newer members of the League who are not familiar with the various publications available may be interested in the following complete list of case studies, monographs and standards published by the League that are now available:

Bulletin No. 6.—The Need for Psychological Interpretation in the Placement of Dependent Children.—Jessie Taft, Ph.D. 15 cts. ea.

Bulletin No. 7.—What Dependent Children Need 25 cts. ea.

Bulletin No. 11.—The Problem of the Unmarried Mother and Her Child.—

Mrs. Ruth I. Workum 15 cts. ea.

Case Study No. 1 30 cts. ea.

Case Study No. 2—"David" 25 cts. ea.

Directory of Members of the League . . . 25 cts. ea.

The New Pied Pipers—Neva R. Deardorff

	Free
Institution Record Forms	Prices on Request
Forms for Child Placing Agencies " " "	" " "
Population Forms	" " "
Financial Forms	" " "

LOST, STRAYED OR STOLEN

From the League Office

One copy of Freud's "Introduction to Psycho-Analysis."

Please Return—No Questions Asked.

CHANGES FOR THE DIRECTORY

CALIFORNIA.—Children's Home Society. M. P. Adams, Superintendent, instead of Mrs. Myra Van Nostrand-Brown.

NEBRASKA.—Nebraska Humane Society. No longer a member of the League.

ENCLOSURES

(Sent to Members Only)

CHILD HEALTH IN PHILADELPHIA.—Published by the Bureau for Jewish Children and the Council of Social Agencies of Philadelphia.

FOUR YEARS WITH THE ALABAMA STATE CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT (1923-1927). A description of the Department's purposes and accomplishments.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES

The program of the Southwestern Regional Conference to be held in Dallas, February 24 and 25, will include the following topics:

Recent Developments in the Child Welfare Field.—C. C. Carstens, New York, N. Y.

What Can Our Communities Do in the Field of Parental Education?—Archdeacon Harry Lee Virden, Dallas, Texas.

The Scope, Methods and Limitations of Boarding Home Care.—Round Table Discussion.

An address in the field of child welfare by Owen R. Lovejoy, New York, N. Y.

A Physical Health Program for Children in Need of Special Care.—Dr. Maud Loeber, New Orleans, La.

How Can Rural Work be Best Organized and Developed?—Mrs. Grace Ashbaugh, American Red Cross.

At the Ohio Valley Regional Conference, to be held in Louisville March 2 and 3, the following topics appear in the program:

Causes and Prevention of Delinquency.—Judge Charles W. Hoffman, Cincinnati, Ohio.

An address on the needs of the dependent child.—C. V. Williams, Chicago, Illinois.

The Problem of the Unmarried Mother.—Mrs. Ruth I. Workum, Cincinnati, Ohio.

A Mental Hygiene Clinic will be conducted by Dr. Frank J. O'Brien and his staff of Louisville.

The Mid-Western Regional will be held in Chicago March 23 and 24, 1928. Rev. M. F. McEvoy, Chairman, 471 Van Buren Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Further announcement regarding this regional, will appear in the March BULLETIN.

**INTER-CITY CONFERENCE ON
ILLEGITIMACY
BULLETIN**

President: MRS. EDITH M. H. BAYLOR, Boston, Mass.
Vice-President: MISS RUTH COLBY, St. Paul, Minn.
Secretary-Treasurer: MISS MAUD MORLOCK, Cleveland, Ohio.

**REPORT OF A ROUND TABLE HELD AT THE
CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE REGIONAL CON-
FERENCE IN NEW YORK CITY, JANUARY 6,
1928**

SUBJECT: THE UNMARRIED FATHER

Interest in the subject was evidenced by the fact that the room assigned for the meeting was overcrowded. It was significant that the feeling was at once voiced that too little has been known about the fathers of illegitimate children, too little done for them and with them. Every one present was eager for help in determining what the fundamental principles should be upon which to base work with the unmarried father and in developing applicable case methods.

In regard to certain points there was general agreement:

1. That the first important interview with the mother should be carried on in such a way that definite data and evidence in regard to the paternity of the child may be assembled at once, as delay or inaccuracy at that point may result in losing all trace of the father.
2. That the statements made should, so far as possible, be verified at once.
3. That the alleged father should, usually, be given a hearing before prosecution is instituted; that he should either be visited or requested by letter to call at the office of the agency.
4. That he should be helped to recognize his responsibility in paying for the confinement expenses of the mother and in supporting, at least in part, the child.
5. That there should be no prosecution except when the evidence is convincing.
6. That whenever possible there should be adjudication of paternity, an exception being made when the hearing would be held in open court, with resulting publicity.
7. That wisely thought out plans should be made for the father and that his family and his family relations should be considered.
8. That individual differences should be recognized so that each father may receive the particular type of treatment that he and his situation require.
9. That marriage should never be forced, and advised only in instances where there is a genuine affection between the father and mother with some prospect of happiness in the union.
10. That the parents of the young father and mother under twenty-one should usually be informed of the situation. This point was discussed at length because it was recognized that a number of exceptional cases might require consideration. For instance, when there is mental or physical disability of the grandparents or when some special family complication exists. It was felt that, as parents are legally responsible for their

minor children, they should be encouraged to make an effort to understand the point of view of son or daughter and their way of living with its temptations in order to be instrumental in helping them and in planning for the future of the grandchild. In cases where grandparents are indifferent, it was thought that great effort should be made to win their co-operation and to make it clear to them that there is at stake a family problem whose solving is largely their responsibility.

A number of points were raised which brought out differences of opinion and resulted in lively discussion.

It was difficult to decide what course should be pursued in the case of an alleged father who is a high school boy. Should teachers in the school be informed of his delinquency and should he be allowed to return to school? Some members of the group thought that the teachers coming in immediate contact with the boy should know the whole story as they might be more understanding and helpful and also might supervise him more carefully in his school relationships. Others felt that many teachers would not weigh properly all the facts in the case and hence might be prejudiced and unfair to the boy. It was agreed that in every case where it is considered wise to inform some one connected with the school, the principal should be chosen and that the information should be given him with ample interpretation. The question of allowing the boy to return to the same school was a moot point. It was thought by some that when the boy's offense is an isolated one and where he shows a sincere intention to behave properly in the future, he should go back into his old class; others felt that it would be unwise to allow him to return at all.

Difference of opinion was equally marked when the young father's responsibility in regard to supporting his child came up for consideration. On one hand there were arguments for holding before the boy constantly the burden which he must later bear, the object being to make him realize the seriousness of his offense with the hope of improved behavior and strengthened character. On the other hand, there was a strong feeling that a boy of sensitive nature might suffer because of the deferred punishment and might become discouraged, feel a sense of inferiority, and lose interest in school or work.

Every one felt that the boy's father should not be expected to shoulder the financial burden of the child's care if this would mean hardship for the family.

There was general agreement that the self-supporting, unencumbered young man should be forced to bear his full share in support.

Where the situation of the man who is already caring for a wife and children was discussed there was one opinion—that the wife should not be told about the illegitimate child but that the husband should be urged to confide in her. Many of the group thought that he should be forced invariably to pay for the care of the child; others considered that better social work would be accomplished if a public or private agency were asked to support the child so that the life of the father's family might remain unimpaired.

A number of additional points were discussed. Many suggested subjects had not been reached when the two hours allotted for the meeting were over.—MRS. EDITH M. H. BAYLOR, Chairman.